

ALVAH JEDATHAN  
ALEXANDER AND ELIZABETH  
SOULE ALEXANDER



Acting Bishop of Midway Ward, 1902-1903.

John Alexander came from Sterling, Scotland, in 1640 and settled in Windsor, Connecticut. He had three sons with him, George, John and Thomas.

John Jedathan was a descendant of George who married Susan Sage at Windsor, March 18, 1644. In 1655 they, with others, settled North Hampton, Massachusetts which they purchased from the Indians.

John, son of George and Susan, married Sarah Gaylord November 18, 1671.

Ebenezer, son of John and Sarah, married Mehitable Buch, October 10, 1709. They lived in Northfield, Vermont, where he was a deacon in his church for forty years.

Thomas, son of Ebenezer and Mehitable married Phoebe (maiden name not known) December 11, 1754.

Jabez, son of Thomas and Phoebe, married Louisa Poole, February 13, 1777.

Alvah, son of Jabez and Louisa, married Phoebe Houston, May 9, 1822, at Acuth, New Hampshire.

Alvah Jedathan, son of Alvah and Phoebe, was born September 21, 1831, at Northfield, Vermont. The family joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and moved to Nauvoo, Illinois. They were close neighbors to the Prophet Joseph Smith. The children of both families played together.

BEAUTIFUL UPON THE MOUNTAINS

Alvah was 13 years old when the Prophet was martyred. He went with his father to meet the body of Joseph Smith when it was taken from Carthage.

Alvah came to Utah with his parents in October, 1852, in the Captain Harmon Cutler company.

Elizabeth "Betsy Kincade" Soule Alexander was born February 6, 1834 at Dexter, Maine, daughter of Solomon and Lydia Bessee Soule.

In 1853 her family left for the gold rush in California.

In the fall of 1853 with an independent company of emigrants they arrived in Utah too late to continue their journey. They settled down to spend the winter in East Mill Creek, Salt Lake County, Utah.

Miss Soule found a job with a Mr. Roberts as a glove maker. While in his employment she heard of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and was convinced in her heart that it was true.

During the winter she met Alvah Jedathan Alexander and on March 13, 1854, she became his bride.

Her family left Utah for California in the spring which was a great heart ache for her. She never had the privilege of seeing any of them again except one brother. She was a splendid nurse and went day and night wherever she was needed.

In the year 1870, her family moved to Midway, where she became very active in the organizations of the church.

She has the distinction of being a descendant of George Soule who came to America in the famous "Mayflower" and planted his feet on the Plymouth Rock in 1620.

She died December 17, 1924, at the age of 90.

She and her husband were the parents of 11 children:

Mary Elizabeth Alexander, married James O'Neil

Phebe Alexander, married George Bonner

Alvah Alexander, married Dezzie Bonner

Adelbert Alexander, married Uliola Epperson

Ella Gertrude Alexander, married Robert Bell Ross

Frederic Soule Alexander, died when child

Ada DeAna Alexander, married Thomas Edmundston Bonner

Charles Edwin Alexander, married Lalla Ruth Springer

MIDWAY BIOGRAPHIES

Henry LeRoi Alexander, married Susie Davis

Florence Mina Alexander, died when a child

Effie Mae Alexander, married Everice Bronson and Emile Nelson.

*I think it was his father who was the blacksmith*  
RRG

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ALEXANDER, ALVAH (son of Jabez Alexander, born Aug. 22, 1755, Marlborough, N. H., and Lois Pool, born Dec. 1, 1758, and married in Acworth). He was born March 12, 1799, Acworth, N. H. Came to Utah Oct. 3, 1852, Capt. Harmon Cutler company.

Married Phoebe Houston, May 9, 1822, who was born June 4, 1804, Acworth, N. H. Their children: Henry Samuel, b. July 12, 1823, m. Mary Marsteller 1845; m. Jane Houston 1848; m. Sarah Miles July 23, 1850; Louisa Pool; Maria; Alvah Jedethan, b. Sept. 21, 1831, m. Elizabeth Soule, March 13, 1854; Orpha Ann. Family home East Mill Creek, Utah. Farmer. Died March 27, 1890. 712

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Blacksmith

large room and filling this hole with water and clay. This mixture was allowed to soak overnight. Next morning, the mixture was transferred to a large wooden box which contained an apparatus referred to as a "dolly." The dolly actually was large mixing blades. The mixing device was powered by horses that plodded around the large box in a manner similar to old-time threshing of grain.

As the mud was being mixed, workmen would prepare wooden molds that were dipped in water and then in red sand. When the mud mixture was at the right consistency, it was taken from the mixing box, put into the wooden molds and leveled. These raw brick were then stacked with air space between each brick. Among the piles of brick, fire boxes or trenches were built, running about two feet apart. Fires were built in these trenches and kept burning continuously for three days and nights, or until the bricks were dry.

Indicative of the hard work involved in making brick is this note from the books of Henry Van Wagoner. Mr. Van Wagoner kept the time of his employees in a note book, and wrote after the name of one man: "One very, very hard days work for Henry Van Wagoner for only two dollars."

The Midway brick yards operated for many years, furnishing materials for such buildings as Wasatch High School which was built in 1912; homes such as the Nelson's by the railroad tracks, Bonner's, James Ritchie's in Charleston, Streets, George Johnson's and Coleman's. The Henry T. Coleman home built by John Watkins is said to be the first brick house built in the valley.

Some of the more prominent brick makers through the years have been David Provost, Theophilus Epperson, Amos and Lawrence Lipperton, Louis Coleman and E. Luke Provost.

### BLACKSMITHS in Midway

Shoes for horses and oxen, wagon and buggy tires, sharpened and tempered, plow shares and drills and picks were just a few of the essentials needed by early settlers of Midway. For these necessities they looked to the blacksmiths of the community.

Fires of the huge forges would often glow late into the night and the anvils would ring as the blacksmiths worked to keep the farmers ready for another day's work. Services were usually paid for in produce, exchanged labor or whatever means of exchange was most readily available.

Those who were most prominent in the trade in Midway included Henry Alexander, Joseph Nelsen, John Wright, Henry T. Coleman, Robert Krebs, Samuel (Sam) Hair, Robert Ross, Ernest White, J. R. Springer and William Gibson. Mr. Gibson operated the last blacksmith shop in the community.